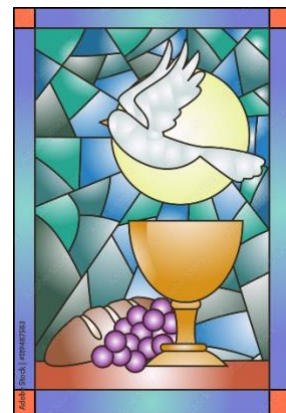


St. Francis of Assisi Parish

First Communion & First Reconciliation

2025-2026

Congratulations, you have a child receiving First Reconciliation and First Communion this year! Please read the following information and add the dates to your calendar.



First Reconciliation

First Reconciliation is celebrated in January. After their First Reconciliation, children should be encouraged to celebrate this sacrament regularly with their families, especially during the Liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent.

First Communion

Our Diocese encourages First Communion to be celebrated during the Easter season. To make the celebration more personal, we will divide the students from our parish into two sections. Families may choose the English or Spanish celebration.

Candidate Requirements

According to Sacramental Norms of the Diocese of Memphis and guidelines of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, the following are required of First Communicants:

- **Grade Requirement** – Children must be at least in the second grade
- **Registration**
 - Complete the Registration Form located on our parish website.
 - New students in our program must supply a copy of their Birth Certificate
 - Certificate of Baptism – A copy of the child's baptism certificate is required if your child was baptized at a church other than St. Francis.
 - Parish Registration – one of the following criteria must be met:
 - Your family must be registered members of St. Francis Parish.
 - If you are a registered member of another parish but wish for your child to receive First Reconciliation/First Communion with St. Francis Parish, you must provide a letter from your pastor stating your child has permission to do so.
 - If you would like your child to receive First Reconciliation/First Communion in the parish in which you are registered, we will be happy to provide a letter certifying his/her participation in our program, at your request.
 - Supply Fee - \$50.00 payable at Registration
- **Mass Attendance** – All children are expected to attend Sunday Mass on a weekly basis in order to connect religious education, sacramental preparation and prayer, to the Liturgy of the Mass. It is almost impossible to teach children the importance of the Eucharist if they do not participate in Mass on Sundays. When out of town, be sure to check www.masstimes.org for churches and Mass times. Please make Mass attendance part of your travel plans.

- **Religious Education Classes** – Child must be attending a Catholic school or be enrolled in Parish Religious Education classes for at least the year prior to the sacramental year. In other words, a child in second grade may receive First Reconciliation and First Communion only if he or she was enrolled in a Catholic school or Parish Religious Education class during their first grade year. Please provide evidence of this enrollment if the child was not enrolled here at St. Francis last year.

IMPORTANT EVENTS:

- **Children's Retreat** – This retreat is held on a Saturday morning. During the retreat, the children will have the opportunity to practice the gestures and movements of receiving Communion and taste the un-consecrated host and wine.
- **Parent Sacrament Meetings** – The Diocese of Memphis requires parents to attend two sacrament meetings, one for Reconciliation and one for Eucharist. Childcare is provided for parent meetings.

Attire for First Communicants:

Girls:

- Simple white dress, no longer than the ankle in length. The dress may be short sleeve, long sleeve or sleeveless. No spaghetti straps please!
- A white veil may be worn, not to hang below the waist. Flowers incorporated with the head piece should be white and miniature in size. No tiaras should be worn.
- Appropriate white dress shoes (open-toe shoes are fine) If socks or tights are worn, they must be white.
- No gloves should be worn.

Boys:

- Navy Blue or Black Sport Coat with tan/khaki pants
- OR Gray, navy, blue or black suit may be worn.
- White shirt with simple tie or white Communion tie
- Belt, dark socks and appropriate dress shoes. No tennis shoes.



2025-2026 CALENDAR FOR FIRST COMMUNION & RECONCILIATION

Parents are required to attend a total of two meetings - one for Reconciliation and one for First Communion. Childcare is provided for these meetings.

Reconciliation Parent Meeting

Wed, Nov 5 Parent Meeting, First Reconciliation (**Spanish**)
7:00 p.m., St. Francis Church – Rm 108

Thurs, Nov. 6 Parent Meeting, First Reconciliation (English)
7:00 p.m., St. Francis Church – Rm 108

Sat. Jan 17 First Reconciliation 10:00 a.m.
St. Francis Church Sanctuary

First Communion Parent Meeting

Tues, Feb 24 Parent Meeting, First Communion (**Spanish**)
7:00 p.m., St. Francis Parish Life Center – Room 108

Thurs, Feb. 26 Parent Meeting, First Communion (English)
7:00 p.m., St. Francis Parish Life Center– Room 113

Sat. March 28 First Communion Retreat for all students
10a.m. – 12noon St. Francis Church
Check-in in Narthex
(This retreat is for students only)

Sat., April 18 Sacrament of First Communion

1st Session: **ENGLISH** 10:00 a.m. at St. Francis Church
Arrive by 9:15 a.m. in the church for pictures
*(Practice for this session is Wednesday, April 15 at 7pm at the church.
Each First Communicant should be accompanied by a parent.)*

2nd Session – **SPANISH** 1:30 p.m. at St. Francis Church
Arrive by 12:45 p.m. in the church for pictures
*(Practice for this session is Thursday, April 16 at 7pm at the church.
Each First Communicant should be accompanied by a parent.)*